

VZCZCXRO2382
OO RUEHFL RUEHKN RUEHMJ RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHPB RUEHQU RUEHRN
DE RUEHTH #1707 3571329
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 221329Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2962
INFO RUCNSCO/UNESCO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0406

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 001707

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/SE AND IO/UNESCO (KSIEKMAN)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNESCO](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREECE/UNESCO: POINTS DELIVERED ON UNESCO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 130916

Classified By: A/Political Counselor Jeff Hovenier for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) PolOff delivered reftel points on the UNESCO Director-General election on December 16 to Emmanuel Papadoyorgakis, Counselor for UN issues of the Greek MFA D1 Directorate for UN and International Organizations and Conferences. Papadoyorgakis remarked that it would be "difficult" to find an Arab candidate who had not expressed anti-Israeli sentiment. Poloff responded that we would welcome potentially strong candidates from the Arab region; however, Farouk Hosni's statements were particularly extreme and risked polarizing the organization. The U.S. would like to avoid any situation that could create pressure for the U.S. to reconsider its 2004 decision to return to UNESCO or that would put at risk UNESCO's ability to achieve its mandate. Papadoyorgakis thanked PolOff for the points, and said that he would share them with his colleagues in Athens and New York and report back if/when he had a substantive reply.
SPECKHARD